

### THE NEW YORK HERALD ADMITS THAT MR. BRYAN HAS "A GOOD FIGHTING CHANCE"

The New York Herald in its issue of Saturday, August 15, quoted from an article written by Henry Watterson, editor of the Louisville Courier-Journal, this statement:

"I am undertaking what has hitherto been called the literary bureau of the democratic organization; that is, the preparation and dissemination of campaign literature. I was in charge of the bureau in 1888 and did a good deal of the same kind of work for Mr. Tilden in 1876. I shall make my headquarters in New York. Not a single daily newspaper of that great city except the Herald has shown the least disposition to

consider the six or seven million voters who are supporting the democratic ticket. Most of them are ruthlessly blacklisting it. Is this either wise or just or patriotic? The political situation is extraordinary. Mr. Bryan has a good fighting chance now, and in my opinion it will grow with the progress of the campaign."

Then the Herald printed the following editorial:

Like a true Kentuckian, Colonel Watterson has hit the bull's-eye. Not only has Mr. Bryan a good fighting chance now, but, as the colonel very significantly remarks, there is every probability that his chance will grow stronger as the campaign develops.

Perhaps in respect of mental equipment, experience of public affairs and freedom from doctrinaire fads Mr. Taft is entitled to be considered the better candidate for the presidency, but the history of the United States is there to prove that it is not always the best man who wins in a presidential election. The great men among our presidents can be counted on the fingers of one hand. The others have been mediocrities, but they have filled the position without discredit to themselves and certainly without doing any great damage to the country.

There is no reason to suppose that Mr. Bryan, if elected, would prove less satisfactory than these latter. No one now fears that his election would provoke an industrial, commercial and financial cataclysm. As a matter of fact his speech of acceptance has strengthened rather than shaken public confidence. Mr. Bryan has evidently mellowed in retirement. While Mr. Roosevelt has been growing steadily more radical in his attitude toward economic questions, the Nebraskan has been steadily growing more conservative and prudent. It is plain that he has completely recovered from his violent attack of free silveritis and no longer prescribes state ownership of everything as a remedy for all economic ailments.

Moreover, he is indisputably the idol of an imposing section of the American electorate. Even those democrats who repudiated emphatically Mr. Bryan's most extravagant theories have been forced to admit that his influence with the rank and file of the party is unrivalled and undiminished and have recognized that truth by again enrolling for service under his banner.

The personal fitness of Mr. Taft, in fact, is very evenly balanced by the personal magnetism of Mr. Bryan.

The question who will win is rendered still more difficult to answer by the fact that there is no "paramount issue" in the present presidential campaign. If the party platforms were to be surreptitiously transposed nobody on either side would ever find it out. It is a case of "six of one and half a dozen of the other." Mr. Taft could stand on Mr. Bryan's platform and Mr. Bryan could stand on Mr. Taft's platform without either one or other feeling that he was on strange territory. It is for this reason that the Herald as a perfectly independent and unbiased newspaper agrees with Colonel Watterson's assertion that Mr. Bryan has a good fighting chance. Of course he has.

Even Mr. Bryan's most serious blemish, namely, that he is a demagogue of the extreme type, may not be after all a very great handicap. The country has just had almost eight years of experience with a demagogue of the extreme type in the White House. And it still survives. Why should it not survive four years more with another demagogue there? Finance and industry and commerce can scarcely receive a fiercer battering under Mr. Bryan than they have received under Mr. Roosevelt.

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